

**In the Claims:**

*Please delete the word "Claims" and insert --What is claimed is:-- therefor.*

*Please amend the claims as follows:*

1. (original) A method of signalling in a communications network in which service information data is transmitted via a first set of channels, the method comprising:  
providing a copy of at least some of said service information data;  
providing forward error correction (FEC) data for said copy; and  
transmitting said copy and said FEC data via a second, different set of channels.
2. (canceled)
3. (canceled)
4. (currently amended) [[A]] The method according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein said copy of said at least some of said service information data comprises a first plurality of data packets and said FEC data comprises a second plurality of data packets and wherein the method further comprises:  
placing said first plurality of data packets in a first plurality of sections and  
placing said second plurality of data packets in a second plurality of sections.
5. (currently amended) [[A]] The method according to claim 4, further comprising:  
arranging said first plurality of sections into a first set of bursts and  
arranging said second plurality of sections into a second set of bursts.

6. (currently amended) [[A]] the method according to claim 4 [[or 5]] further comprising:  
placing said first plurality of sections in a first plurality of packets and  
placing said first plurality of sections in a second plurality of packets.
7. (currently amended) [[A]] The method according to claim 6, further comprising:  
labelling said first plurality of packets with a first packet identifier; and  
labelling said second plurality of packets with a second packet identifier.
8. (currently amended) [[A]] The method according to ~~any one of claims 5 to 7~~ claim 5,  
comprising:  
providing a first parameter for indicating a timing offset between a first, earlier burst  
comprising at least some of said copy of said at least some of said service information data and a  
second, later burst comprising further of said copy of said at least some of said service  
information data; and  
providing a second parameter for indicating a timing offset between a third, earlier burst  
comprising at least some of said FEC data and a fourth, later burst comprising further FEC data.
9. (currently amended) [[A]] The method according to claim 8, further comprising:  
placing said first parameter in a section included in said first burst and  
placing said second parameter in a section included in said second burst.
10. (canceled)
11. (canceled)
12. (canceled)

13. (canceled)
14. (currently amended) [[A]] The method according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein said communications network is a unidirectional, digital broadcast system.
15. (canceled)
16. (canceled)
17. (canceled)
18. (canceled)
19. (original) A method of signalling in a communications network in which service information data is transmitted, the method comprising:
  - providing forward error correction (FEC) data for at least some of said service information data; and
  - transmitting said at least some of said service information data and said FEC data.
20. (currently amended) [[A]] The method according to claim 19, comprising:
  - transmitting said service information data via a first set of channels; and
  - transmitting said at least some of said service information data and said FEC data via a second, different set of channels.
21. (original) A method of transmitting service information, the method comprising:
  - transmitting at least part of service information data as part of forward error correction data.

22. (original) A method according to claim 21, wherein the service information data includes service information parameters.

23. (currently amended) A computer readable medium storing a computer program comprising computer program instructions for causing data processing apparatus ~~to perform the method according to any preceding claim~~

to transmit service information data via a first set of channels;

to provide a copy of at least some of said service information data;

to provide forward error correction (FEC) data for said copy; and

to transmit said copy and said FEC data via a second, different set of channels.

24. (original) A method of operating a terminal configured to receive service information transmitted via a first set of channels, the method comprising:

receiving a copy of at least some of said service information data and FEC data for said copy via a second, different set of channels.

25. (currently amended) [[A]] The method according to claim 24, further comprising:

decoding said copy of at least some of said service information data and said FEC data for said copy so as to produce a corrected version of said copy of said at least some of said service information data.

26. (canceled)

27. (original) A method of operating a terminal configured to receive service information, the method comprising:

receiving at least some service information data and FEC data for said at least some

service information data.

28. (canceled)

29. (canceled)

30. (currently amended) A computer readable medium storing a computer program comprising computer program instructions for causing a terminal ~~to perform the method according to any one of claims 24 to 29~~

to receive a copy of at least some of said service information data and FEC data for said copy via a second, different set of channels; and

to decode said copy of at least some of said service information data and said FEC data for said copy so as to produce a corrected version of said copy of said at least some of said service information data.

31. (original) A system of signalling in a communications network in which service information is transmitted via a first set of channels, the method comprising:

providing a copy of at least some of said service information data;

providing forward error correction (FEC) data for said copy;

transmitting said copy and said FEC data via a second, different set of channels.

32. (original) A system of signalling in a communications network in which service information data is transmitted, the system comprising:

providing forward error correction (FEC) data for at least some of said service information data; and

transmitting said at least some of said service information data and said FEC data.

33. (currently amended) [[A]] The system according to claim 32, comprising:  
transmitting said service information data via a first set of channels; and  
transmitting said at least some of said service information data and said FEC data via a second, different set of channels.
34. (canceled)
35. (original) A network element configured to signal service information via a first, set of channels, the network element comprising:  
means for providing a copy of at least some of said service information data;  
means for providing forward error correction (FEC) data for said copy;  
means for transmitting said copy and said FEC data via a second, different set of channels.
36. (original) A network element for signalling service information, the network element comprising:  
means for providing forward error correction (FEC) data for at least some of said service information data; and  
means for transmitting said at least some of said service information data and said FEC data.
37. (currently amended) [[A]] The network element according to claim 36, configured to transmit service information data via a first set of channels and to transmit said at least some of said service information data and said FEC data via a second, different set of channels.

38. (currently amended) [[A]] The network element according to any one of claims 35 to 37 claim 35, which is an encapsulator.

39. (original) A transmitter for signalling service information in a communications network, the transmitter comprising:

means for providing forward error correction (FEC) data for at least some service information data; and

means for transmitting said at least some of said service information data and said FEC data.

40. (currently amended) [[A]] The transmitter according to claim 39, configured to transmit service information data via a first set of channels and to transmit said at least some of said service information data and said FEC data via a second, different set of channels.

41. (currently amended) A transmitter for signalling service information in a communications network, the transmitter comprising:

means for transmitting at least some of said service information data and ~~said FEC data~~ forward error correction (FEC) for said service information data.

42. (original) A terminal configured to receive service information transmitted via a first channel, comprising:

means for receiving a copy of at least some of said service information data and forward error correction (FEC) data for said copy via a second, different set of channels.

43. (original) A terminal configured to receive service information, comprising:

means for receiving at least some of service information data and forward error correction (FEC) data for said at least some of said service information.

44. (currently amended) [[A]] The terminal according to claim 43, configured to receive service information data via a first set of channels and to receive said at least some of said service information data and said FEC data via a second, different set of channels.
45. (original) A receiver for receiving service information, the receiver comprising:  
means for receiving forward error correction (FEC) data for at least part of transmitting part of service information data as part of forward error correction data.
46. (canceled)
47. (new) The method according to claim 1, further comprising:  
including in said service information data at least one of the following parameters:  
a parameter for indicating that said copy is being transmitted via second channel;  
a parameter for indicating that said FEC data is being transmitted via third channel;  
a parameter for indicating that said copy is being transmitted in a set of time-sliced bursts;  
and  
a parameter for indicating that said FEC data is being transmitted in a set of time-sliced bursts.